

Grace & Peace

Philippians 1:2

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul uses a similar greeting in almost all of his epistles. But that does not mean that it had no meaning.

This is not like the casual “How do you do.” which is not expected to receive an answer but is something of common courtesy.

The word grace was the common gentile greeting except they used the verb form instead of the noun as Paul does here.

It would be similar to wishing someone a good morning.

Peace was the common Jewish greeting, “Shalom” and Jesus and others used it in that way various times in the New Testament.

Grace and peace though are very important words in the Christian faith.

They are very important words to Christian teaching.

These two words are essential for without them there would not be a Christian in the world, if the world even existed. We live in such an evil place controlled by such evil people that if there were no God extending grace and peace to this world we would have killed each other off centuries ago.

Of the world religions, only Christianity knows anything of grace and peace in the sense that Paul uses them.

But even within Christianity there is a large group that still do not understand grace.

That is why this message is so important this morning.

I. Grace is unmerited

- A. Romans 5:8 (NKJV) 8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- B. Ephesians 2:8-10 (NKJV) 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, 9 not of works, lest anyone should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.
- C. Titus 3:5 (NKJV) 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit,

II. Grace is abundant

- A. Titus 3:5-7 (NKJV) 5 not by works of righteousness which we have done, but

according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, 6 whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, 7 that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1. His grace is not just enough to get us in but it is abundant through Jesus Christ our Savior.
2. God is not stingy with His grace.
3. Some have the idea that He gives us a little and then the rest is up to us.
4. God will not give the credit for a person's salvation to anyone. It is His and His alone because it is abundant.
5. There is no means of grace.
 - a. Some faiths teach that baptism is the means of grace.
 - b. That is that God gives us grace when we do something to merit it.
 - c. But you see that ruins the whole meaning of the word, for it is unmerited, that is what defines grace.
 - d. Ro 11:6 And if by grace, then it is no longer of works; otherwise grace is no longer grace. But if it is of works, it is no longer grace; otherwise work is no longer work.

III. Peace

- A. The Bible is not as concerned with inner peace as it is with peace with God.
- B. The natural man holds God as an enemy.
 1. Ro 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be.
- C. Also the sinner is under the wrath of God.
 1. The sinner is not like a disobedient son who strikes pain in the heart of his father with his sin.
 2. The sinner is under the wrath of God nothing keeps God from snatching the sinner from the security of this life and throwing him into the depths of hell but the mercy of God.
 3. 18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness,
- D. Jesus Christ came to bring peace through the sacrifice of Himself.
 1. Col 1:19 For it pleased the Father that in Him all the fullness should dwell, 20 and by Him to reconcile all things to Himself, by Him, whether things

on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of His cross. 21 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled 22 in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight — 23 if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

IV. Notice how that Jesus is linked with God the Father

A. Romans 1:7 (NKJV) 7 To all who are in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:3 (NKJV) 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Corinthians 1:9 (NKJV) 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 2 Corinthians 1:2-3 (NKJV) 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort,

Galatians 1:1 (NKJV) 1 Paul, an apostle (not from men nor through man, but through Jesus Christ and God the Father who raised Him from the dead),

Galatians 1:3 (NKJV) 3 Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ,

Ephesians 1:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, To the saints who are in Ephesus, and faithful in Christ Jesus: 2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Colossians 1:3 (NKJV) 3 We give thanks to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you,

1 Thessalonians 1:1 (NKJV) 1 Paul, Silvanus, and Timothy, To the church of the Thessalonians in God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 1:3 (NKJV) 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,

1 Timothy 1:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope, 2 To Timothy, a true son in the faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

2 Timothy 1:2 (NKJV) 2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

Titus 1:4 (NKJV) 4 To Titus, a true son in our common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior.

Philemon 1:3 (NKJV) 3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 1:1-3 (NKJV) 1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds; 3 who being the brightness of His glory and the express image of His person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by Himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high,

James 1:1 (NKJV) 1 James, a bondservant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, To the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad: Greetings.

1 Peter 1:3 (NKJV) 3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,

2 Peter 1:1-2 (NKJV) 1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, To those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

2 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord,

1 John 1:3 (NKJV) 3 that which we have seen and heard we declare to you, that you also may have fellowship with us; and truly our fellowship is with the Father and with His Son Jesus Christ.

2 John 1:3 (NKJV) 3 Grace, mercy, and peace will be with you from God the Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Father, in truth and love.

Jude 1:1 (NKJV) 1 Jude, a bondservant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, To those who are called, sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ:

- B. What this shows is that there is equality between them and they are bound together to accomplish the plan of redemption.

This does not exclude the Holy Spirit for He is the one who quickens the dead sinner and makes him alive to God. All three persons of the Godhead work to give us grace and peace.

Do you know the grace of God and the peace of God?

